

HOME RULE FOR COUNTIES FAILS

MEASURE LACKED THREE VOTES FOR TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE SENATE.

HOUSE PASSES FARM MEASURE

Third of Governor's Reform Bill Adopted; Cabinet to Adjust State's Budget System.

(From Staff Correspondent.) Lansing.—The county commission form of government struck a snag in the senate when that body took up final consideration of Senator Phillips' joint resolution to submit a constitutional amendment to a state referendum at the November, 1922, election that would allow counties to vote on adopting a commission plan. Nineteen votes was all that could be mustered for the Phillips' resolution and it requires 22, a two-thirds vote of the entire senate, to submit a constitutional amendment. Ten votes were cast against the resolution and three senators were absent.

Cities Would Dominate Counties.

Senator McNaughton, of the rural districts of Kent, the county in which the idea originated, led the fight against the resolution, declaring that it meant counties would be dominated entirely by the cities in all counties like Kent which have large cities. A call of the senate was resorted to in order to keep senators in their seats for what was considered the most important roll call of the session up to that time.

The vote was: Yes, Senators Baker, Bolt, Brower, Condon, Eldred, Engel, Forrester, Hamilton, Hayes, Johnson, McArthur, McKee, Penney, Phillips, Riopelle, Smith (2nd Dist.), Smith (11th Dist.), Wilcox and Wood—19. No, Senators Amon, Bryant, Clark, Davis, Henry, McNaughton, Osborn, Ross, Sink and Vandenberg—10. Absent, Senators Hicks, Lemire and Tufts—3.

Following its failure of adoption the resolution was tabled after a reconsideration and its sponsors will make an effort to corral some more votes for it before endeavoring to take it from the table.

Agricultural Bill Passed.

The bill to create a state department of agriculture, third of the series designed to remodel the conduct of state business, went through the house of representatives the same day that it was reported out from the committee on agriculture, being passed both in committee of the whole and on third reading, under suspension of the rules.

In the new department, the bill provides, there will be consolidated all state bureaus that concern agricultural, livestock and horticultural matters and the state fair will be under its control. The department also is designed to bring closer relations between producer and consumer. The bill now is before the senate committee on agriculture. It is to be followed by two more administration measures, the conservation bill and the labor department measure.

Along the same lines there also is being prepared a measure to wipe out state institutional boards and have their duties transferred to the state administrative board and the departments under which their institutions naturally come. It further is planned to have one master accountant to keep track of the financial affairs of all the institutions and a "state farmer" who will look after the farms and the livestock owned by many of the institutions. Some of these farms now lose money for the state.

To Adjust Budget System.

The budget system that so far has not functioned as it was intended to will be looked after by the state administrative board as well and the service of the budget director will be dispensed with. It is planned to extend the system to include even the state university and agricultural college.

The bill to cover the deficiency budget of the state has been completed and introduced in the senate, cut down from \$2,400,000 to \$1,625,000. Part of the saving is the result of the drop in general market prices, institutional requests for funds all being based on last year's prices. Un authorized salary raises helped materially to create the deficiency, according to the statement from the administrative board to the legislature.

It is thought the present bill will carry the state through this year nicely, but there may be the necessity of a special session of the legislature next January to meet conditions then.

To make the state administrative board still more like a governor's cabinet, Rep. Dunn, of Highland Park, introduced a bill in the house to have the secretary of state, the state treasurer and the attorney general appointed by the governor, instead of elected.

Real Supervision Lacking.

One of the reasons for the movement to abolish institutional boards of control is found in the frequent investigations by legislators into conditions under present methods of management. Investigations into the conduct of the boys' industrial school, of the state pardon board and of the building of the new state office building all are going forward right now and legislators declare that too much state business is allowed to go on without real supervision by those who are supposed to supervise.

The senate has passed a bill to have the governor name a commission of seven persons to co-operate with federal authorities in furthering the cause of a lake-to-the-atlantic deep

waterway. The senate also has passed a bill to have the state pay half the cost of killing off grasshoppers in places where they become a pest.

The governor has signed the acts raising the city school district tax to nine mills for school maintenance and six mills for new schools; and to provide for annual June meetings of the state board of equalization.

May Adjourn April 14.

A resolution has been introduced in the house by Rep. Frick, of Detroit, to set April 14 as the date of business adjournment of this session, with final adjournment May 3. General opinion is that unless many matters now in committee are dropped entirely the latter date will be about the earliest on which business adjournment can be taken.

Leading all topics of conversation in the legislative halls since the opening of the session of 1921 has been the proposal of Rep. Hart, of Detroit, to establish the death penalty for murder. For a few days it was thought that adverse sentiment expressed at public hearings had effectually stopped the measure for the season, but then along came the house committee that had the bill in charge and decided to report it out to the floor of the house.

The measure came out of committee without recommendation, but it was out. "The house will kill it in a hurry. Why should we hold it back?" was the gist of statements by committee members. But their report started all over again the whole argument as to life imprisonment or the death penalty for the crime of murder. The result still is to be recorded.

Manufacturers Oppose Tax.

Next in point of discussion comes the income tax proposals, the idea of Senator Penney of asking the federal government to whack up with the states on what it gets on its income tax returns meeting with the objection in many quarters that there is small chance of the federal government agreeing to do so. Farmers are demanding that some way be found to relieve the tax burden on land, and manufacturers are complaining that they are overburdened with taxes now and that a state income tax will merely be an extra levy on them.

Thus far the argument seems to be between the farmer and the manufacturer, with the salaried man still to be heard from. Statistics are being produced in the capitol regarding state income taxes in other commonwealths. They exist now in ten states, Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin and range all the way from a direct tax of one half of one percent on all incomes, to taxes with exemptions similar to those of the federal government and to taxes on corporation profits alone. Definite action of some sort by the senate and house committees is expected to follow public hearings at which all corners will be heard on the whole subject.

Women Active at Capital.

Influence of women's organizations is being felt more in the present session than ever before. This is natural, of course, now that women have the vote, but it is interesting to observe that matters with which women petitioners concern themselves now are principally those which women failed previously to get enacted. But no one is disposed to ignore them now. The bills on which petitions of women voters largely are based to date, include the bill to raise the age of consent to eighteen years; the bill to enlarge the benefits under the mothers' pension act; the censorship of moving pictures; and the so-called "eugenics bill." There is the usual battle on every one of these measures, all of which have been up in previous legislatures, but the chances of all are enhanced appreciably by the force of the women behind them now.

Whether by accident or by design the present body of lawmakers has set a record for coming legislatures to shoot at. Fewer bills have been introduced up to the crucial time of mid-March than ever before. From this time on it is not to be expected that any bill, except it is of great public moment, will be shoved ahead of those already in committee, and thus will have small chance of getting on the floor of either house in time for enactment. And to date there have been less than 300 house bills and less than 150 senate bills introduced, where there were more than 600 in the two houses combined, in the last legislature, which ran at about the average for the time since the new constitution was adopted in 1908.

Would Abolish Prison Boards.

One of the new bills to carry out the idea of reforming state administration generally has been introduced by Rep. Wells, of Cass county. It would place all prisons of the state under a board of three members, each of whom would devote his time to the work at a salary of \$3,500 a year. The wardens would be named by and be subject to this board. The present boards of control would be abolished.

The application of city traffic laws to suburban and township conditions is the objective of several motor and vehicular bills that have been tossed into the legislative grist mill. One bill would require that all motor trucks, whether traveling in the city or country, be provided with mirrors to observe traffic following them.

How Peanuts Grow.

The common peanut grows in a peculiar way that is distinctly original. The little plant sends up its shoots with the fruit on the end of a somewhat stiff stalk, and then before it ripens the stem bends over and carefully pushes the fruit underground. As pigs are said to be especially fond of these it has been humorously suggested that the plant does this to hide its nuts from the porker's too inquisitive investigations.

WHEELER SCHOOL NOTES

Rhetoricals were given by the pupils Friday afternoon. The primary and the intermediate rooms were invited in.

The 7th grade has challenged the 8th grade to a debate for Friday. The question is "Resolved that the Indians were treated more coolly by the whites than the Negroes."

Hazel Rhodes, who has been very ill, is now recovering. The pupils presented her with a beautiful jonquil.

Minnie Holsinger is out of school, on account of sickness. She is not expected to return.

The pupils are getting along fine with their play which will be given as a number of the lecture course.

The pupils of the intermediate room were glad to have their teacher back after an absence of a week on account of sickness.

Glady and Lucella Gray visited school Monday.

The primary pupils are learning spring songs and poems.

Cecille Wright spelled the 3rd and 4th grades down Friday afternoon.

SETHTON

Mrs. H. H. McWilliams has been very ill the past week. Her daughters are caring for her.

James Leonard spent the first of the week visiting friends at Maple Rapids.

John Frye has moved from the C. J. Chambers farm.

Mrs. A. VanHeek and son, Ray, spent Sunday at the Peter Salbury home on Egypt street.

Mrs. Hattie Hyatt is home from Carson City where she spent the past month nursing at the Stanley Horn home.

The Role's twins have the chicken-pox.

Iris Gardner spent Sunday with Miss Myrna Kirschner in the Culy district.

Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Gardner spent Friday at the Albert Joslyn home in the Wermuth district.

There was a large crowd in attendance at the Republican caucus Friday afternoon.

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Have Pains?

Aches and pains seem to be the lot of the ordinary mortal. However, these should be taken simply as nature's warning signals that some part of the human machine is out of order. It is a mistake to resign one's self to physical torture when the cause can be removed.

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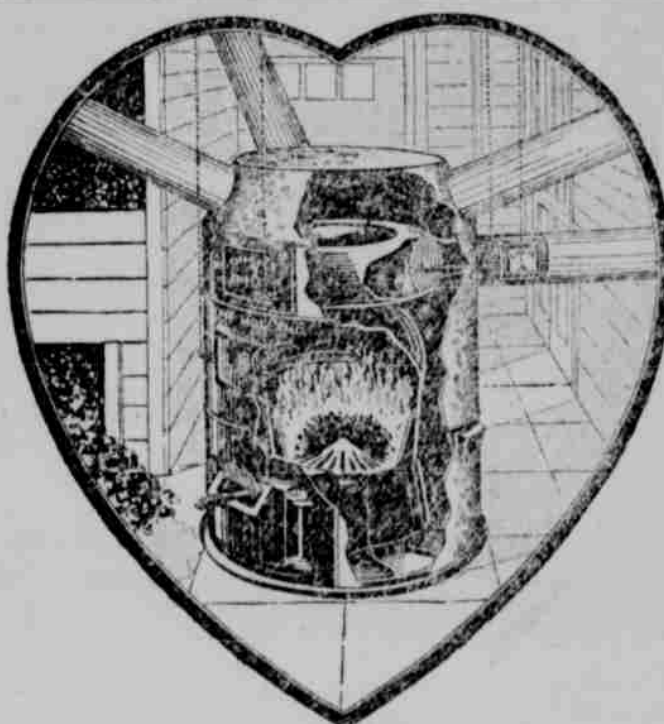
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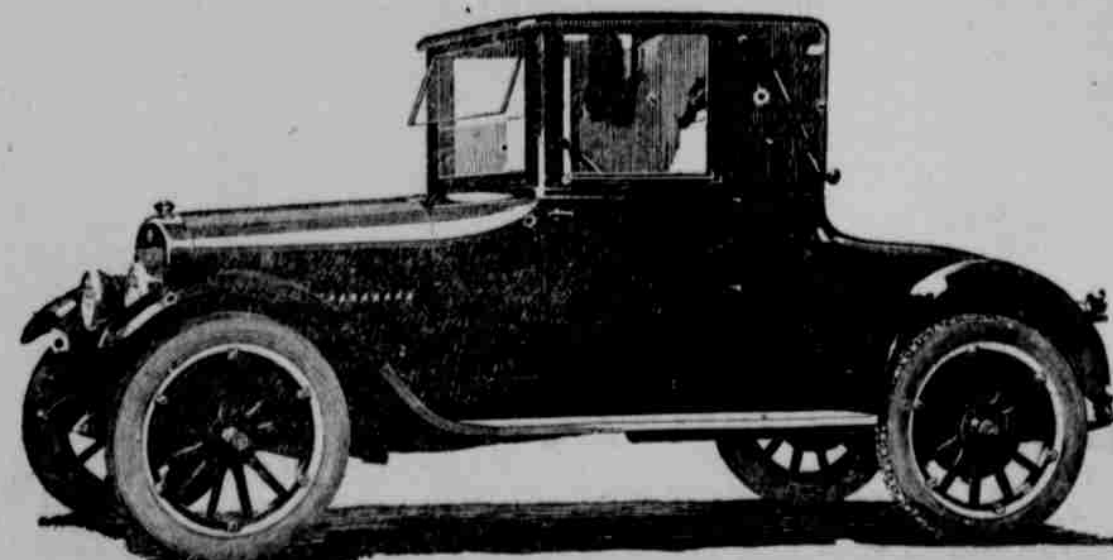
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